

The Wichita Daily Eagle.

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NUMBER 78

INTENSE

Situations Crowd the Proceedings at Rennes.

TWICE DREYFUS ARISES

In Desperate Protest Against His Accusers.

MADAME HENRY IN COURT

General Rogot Pitiably Berates the Prisoner—Demange Is a Fraud—Dreyfus Continues to Lose.

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Rennes, Aug. 16.—The Bretonne are first cousin of the Irish, though without Irish wit and gaiety. But they have a greater taste for personal adornment and picturesque costumes. They are very like the Irish in their sympathy with outlaws, especially if the outlawry be due to service, or cause by unlawful means dear to the common people. We see this in the vain attempts of the police to seize the man who shot M. Labori in the back. The whole country has been vainly scouring for him, but as all the country folk refuse to give information, or only speak to mislead, the police will probably go on searching fruitlessly. The Catholic feeling of the whole district has been aroused against Dreyfus, and runs higher than ever since the bishop issued a pastoral announcing that no open-air procession in honor of the Virgin must take place at the festival of the Assumption. He has ordered that the clergy, in the interest of peace, to confine the procession to the cathedral and other churches. The general conclusion deduced from the Episcopal pastoral has been that the Dreyfusards, who are either Jews, freethinkers or blasphemers, intended to insult religion and breed disturbances. As a consequence a sullen feeling is shown. As a matter of fact nobody more deeply regret the interdiction of the Assumption procession in the former capital of Brittany than the friends of Dreyfus, particularly his friends in the press. The latter had hoped to find the procession rich in local color and an interesting subject for description.

M. Labori had been living in a house unheated from the sun and in a rather busy quarter. It was thought desirable to transfer him to a more quiet suburb, and he is now at Prof. Basche's house, quite in the country, though close to Rennes. It is an old-fashioned homestead, built of granite and snugly slated, with a farm yard on one side and on the other a large, old-fashioned shady garden. The place is surrounded by high wall that might stand a siege. The removal took place on a hand ambulance cart, which one man drew and two pushed. Labori suffered fearfully on the way, the bullet being still imbedded in the dorsal muscle. There is, however, no fever, though he chafes dreadfully at losing the opportunity to tackle the military witnesses. It has been remarked that the Dreyfus case brings him fate and bad luck. Since he first concerned himself with it he has been attacked with pleurisy and typhoid fever, and now he is shot in the back.

The seriousness of his state was hidden in the hope that might be achieved by postponing his recovery. It was rather an unreasonable expectation, however desirable from the view point of the defense. M. Demange's application for an adjournment was roughly dismissed. Mme. Labori, to show that her husband was recovering rapidly, attended the session. She was sorely disappointed at the news she had to convey, and she said he would be even more so.

Today's witnesses were Senator Guerin, who was colonial minister at the time Dreyfus was sent to Cayenne; Mme. Henry, widow of the suicide, and M. Lebon, who was colonial minister for more than two years and who ordered the palisade, or high fence, to be placed around the hut on the Isle de Devils. Guerin was a provincial attorney in Carpentras, where they know nothing of the Dreyfus case, except what they have learned from the papers. I happen to know that he was acquainted with the prisoner's late father, who was naturalized a Frenchman in 1873 at Carpentras, where two of his three daughters have since married. This, possibly, accounts for the tone of kind feeling in M. Guerin's deposition.

Mme. Henry, dressed in deep mourning, came from the convent where she is staying. She says her age is 28. She is commonplace and vulgar and shows, in her figure and complexion, that she shared the good cheer of which the late Labori, general Colonel Henry was so fond. There was very little in her evidence. I noticed two lies. One was that she saw Henry one night at the dining room table painting the bordereau on a sheet of gummed paper and that it was torn in small fragments. Now the photograph shows of it the photograph which was done for the intelligence department—shows it was simply torn half-way across and was in fragments. The other lie was that Esterhazy was not known to Henry before the Piquart duel, but she afterward admitted that Henry knew Esterhazy years previously in Tunis. She was scarcely audible, but it hardly mattered, as she delivered herself of a lot of foolishness about Henry's patriotism and devotion to the army.

General Rogot, like all the other generals who preceded him, came as a witness, but he acted as a public prosecutor, and he reminded me of a devil's advocate, and a devil's advocate in good earnest. Rogot was dead set against the unfortunate Dreyfus, who must have been tortured while the general went on with statements, deductions, innuendoes and suggestions, that were all jam to all the officers present. If General Rogot was not speaking in good faith, his statement was infamously wicked. But he made a point. Major Hartman, who testified before the court of cassation about the gun mentioned in the bordereau, said it had been tested in 1894 and that everyone knew all about it in 1894. This Rogot denied, and the president of the court-martial, who is an artillery officer, seemed to endorse him. According to Rogot, the gun had been tested in 1894 only and spoken of in only one journal, the Yacht, the editor of which, Captain Weyl, was an intimate friend of Esterhazy.

"Who was this Weyl?" said Rogot. "He was the uncle by marriage of Mathieu Dreyfus." The accused quivered with rage, like one half-impaired, and starting up. He protested at having to sit still for two hours while tortured by a witness who tore his very heart out.

Colonel Jousset's manner had relaxed on the two previous days, but when the circumstances of Weyl making the revelation about the gun was mentioned it hardened into the utmost hardness. What is very strange is that Weyl's relations with General Pellieux and Esterhazy were never proved, though they were much taken up. Weyl was sent to Coventry by the Nationalists for having written articles favorable to England in the Journal des Debats. He was at the minister's time one of the officers of the ministry of marine, to which, as editor of a nautical journal, he had had free entrance.

I thought at the time of the articles in the Journal des Debats, that they were fair, well written and creditable. He must have known Alfred Dreyfus, since he was Mathieu's uncle-in-law. There are many Nationalists who regarded him as a spy of England and denounced him to the marine minister, but the Nationalists are always rabid.

M. Lebon brazened out the charges that he had sent barbarously cruel orders to Devil's Island. At the same time it looks from his evidence as if a serious plan for enabling Dreyfus to escape was on foot. Had he escaped in 1896, M. Lebon would have seemed to all of France an accomplice of the traitor. The former minister of the colonies seemed inspired merely by the instinct of self-preservation—our guardian angel in the material but never in the moral order. M. Lebon is a sanctimonious prig, a Protestant, but of the sort known in France as "Jesuitical Protestants." He wrote a poor history of France for a series published in London. His evidence told more against himself than against Dreyfus.

MAIN POINTS OF THE DAY

Rennes, France, Aug. 16.—The second trial by court-martial of Captain Alfred Dreyfus, of the French artillery, charged with treason, was continued this morning. Major Esterhazy, the representative of the government, having refused to agree to the adjournment of the case until Monday, applied for by M. Demange, counsel for the prisoner, and Captain Dreyfus, owing to the murderous attack upon Maitre Labori, leading counsel for the defense. The feature of the day's proceedings was the story of the sufferings of Dreyfus on Devil's Island and his escape off the coast of French Guiana. Dreyfus wept in court when the clerk read a document recounting the details of his incarceration.

The proceedings opened with the application of Demange for an adjournment. This was followed by the deposition of M. Guerin, the former minister of justice, who, however, only repeated the evidence he had given before the court of cassation.

M. Lebon, the former minister of the colonies, a big, red-bearded man, then testified in justification of his instructions to treat Dreyfus rigorously, declaring that extreme stringency only dated from the time he thought an attempt would be made to rescue the prisoner.

Colonel Jousset, president of the court-martial, asked Dreyfus if he had any questions to put to the witnesses and he replied, in an emotional voice: "No, my colonel. I am here to defend my honor. I do not wish to speak here of the atrocious suffering, physical and moral, which for five years, I, a Frenchman and an innocent man, was subjected to, on the Ile du Diable."

M. Demange asked that the official report of the treatment of Dreyfus on the island, which was published in the newspapers last week, should be read. The president of the court did so, and in a sympathetic tone, recounted the harrowing tale of Dreyfus' mental and physical sufferings and inhuman treatment on the island. Deep-drawn breaths of indignation came from the hearers as the reading proceeded. Dreyfus, at first, watched the faces of the judges, with his usual composure; but, gradually, as the story proceeded and incidents of his actual existence were related, his eyes grew dim and tears glistened in his eyes, and slowly trickled down his cheeks. Dreyfus could stand it no longer, and for the first time during his trial, gave way to his emotions and silently wept. The faces of the audience expressed sympathy with the prisoner's emotion, and even the captain of gendarmes, sitting beside Dreyfus, turned and gave him a look of unspoken commiseration.

General Mercier, who took the stand to the right of the witness, seated in the front row of the witnesses' seats, listened to the reading of the report unmoved, while Colonel Jousset followed it with an air of bored tolerance.

M. Lebon afterwards returned to the stand and added a few more words in justification of his conduct, and then Colonel Jousset ordered the next witness to be brought in. All eyes were turned towards the door on the right of the stage and a moment later, the form of a woman, dressed in deep mourning, appeared in the doorway, and accompanied by a non-commissioned officer, advanced to the platform. It was the widow of Colonel Henry, the French officer who committed suicide in prison after confessing to forging certain documents in the case. With pale face and hand upraised to her forehead, she took the stand to tell the truth. Mme. Henry is of medium height and has a countenance of features and certainly could not be described as attractive. She at once put herself at ease, leaning forward with both hands resting on the rail of the witness stand. In an attitude of complete self-possession she gave her evidence, accompanying the words with frequent gestures. Her evidence, however, was of little weight. She admitted the frequent visits of Esterhazy to her husband and said her husband told her he had forged one document, "in order to save the honor of the country." She gave her evidence in a matter-of-fact way and was in no wise the sympathetic figure the anti-Dreyfusards have tried to make her.

General Rogot, in dress uniform followed Esterhazy from a vitriolic diatribe against Dreyfus from beginning to end.

The court adjourned until tomorrow on the conclusion of General Rogot's monologue.

Colonel Jousset, previously asked Dreyfus if he wished to say anything, and the prisoner, who, during the time of General Rogot's fulmination against him, several times made a movement as if to rise and retort, but was waved down by Colonel Jousset, rose and, in that voice which is not agreeable in ordinary times, but when strained with emotion, as it was today, has a thrilling effect on his hearers, he cried, crushing his lips in his hands: "No, my colonel, it is frightful that, day after day, for hours, I should thus have my heart, my soul and very entrails torn without being permitted to reply. It is terrible torture to impose upon an innocent and loyal soldier. It is a frightful thing! Frightful! Frightful!"

The audience profoundly stirred, began to applaud, but the applause was quickly suppressed. M. Demange then announced that he would question General Rogot tomorrow.

General Rogot spoke for three hours without adding any new facts, only reiterating in the most forcible terms what has been bandied about in the anti-Dreyfusard press for a year past. The most interesting part of his testimony was his attack on Colonel Piquart, who, he said, undoubtedly led to the confrontation of the two men. He treated Dreyfus without mercy, it seemed at times as though he would provoke the prisoner into striking him. The general's manner was most passionate. In his outburst at the end of his testimony he uttered the most ruthless attacks with the air of one delivering a pleasant Sunday school address, leaning over the front of the witness stand, slipping the corners of his eyes, wiping his lips and mopping his brow with perfect self-satisfaction. But again and again, he would half turn in his chair and, pointing his finger at Dreyfus, would repeat some cruel accusation, at the same time fixing his eyes on the prisoner, his head inclined forward like that of a cobra awaiting the moment for strike. Dreyfus, however, was not a typhoid rabbit, and steadily returned his gaze, sometimes throwing a glance at the president of the court as though appealing for permission to reply. Once when General Rogot had flung one of his darts, stopped and deliberately paused, one could see the fire in Dreyfus' eyes and his tightly clenched jaws could be divined the struggle that was going on within him. The captain of gendarmes, seated beside Dreyfus, watched him closely. The second half of the morning and the spectators held their breath. General Rogot seemed purposely to prolong the silence in order to make a deeper impression. It was a perilous moment. But, Dreyfus won the battle over his passions and when Rogot's voice was again heard everbody knew the danger was passed and a deep drawn sigh of relief came from the audience.

The general impression left by today's proceedings is unfavorable, owing to the absence of such cross-examinations as M. Labori would have given M. Lebon and Guerin and owing to the fact that General Rogot's arguments received no reply. This, however, it is hoped, will prove damaging when M. Demange cross-examines him tomorrow, although M. Demange cannot be said, up to the present, to have shown any great advantage. The following is the evidence in detail:

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of the Libre Parole, as the suspected officer was a Jew?"

M. Guerin replied: "I cannot affirm whether or not I received M. Gobert, but what I can affirm is that if he came I did not employ the language mentioned, and I made none of the statements he attributes to me."

HOW DREYFUS WAS TREATED

M. Lebon, former minister of the colonies, was then summoned to testify regarding his treatment of the prisoner. He said that when the cabinet was asked to intervene in favor of revision, he thought the executive should not interfere with the judiciary and his respect for the chose judge was strengthened by his personal opinion of the culpability of the condemned. "On my soul and conscience," declared M. Lebon, dramatically, "I say, I considered the measure I took relative to the prisoner on the Ile du Diable, as warranted, and if I had to repeat them, I would not hesitate."

M. Lebon then explained the reasons for the rigorous measures against Dreyfus. He said a certain telegram sent to French Guiana disappeared. It was traced out of France but immediately it reached the English lines it disappeared, showing, the witness said, that efforts were being made to enable the prisoner to evade the regulations. Rigorous, even painful, measures were therefore taken to prevent his escape. M. Lebon then took notice to the prisoner on the Ile du Diable, as warranted, and if I had to repeat them, I would not hesitate."

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First, the bordereau, the author of which was undiscoverable until Colonel Fabre, on returning from the maneuvers, exclaimed after he saw the document, exclaiming: "Why, that's Dreyfus' handwriting!"

Secondly, the nature of the documents enumerated in the bordereau, in conjunction with Dreyfus' employment in different departments, proved conclusive. According to the witness, all these papers alone had cognizance of all these papers, and he alone could have disclosed them.

Thirdly, the dictation test and Dreyfus' perturbation at the time. General Mercier, M. Guerin then said, in consequence of these convictions, declared his intention to ask the cabinet to authorize the prosecution of Dreyfus. A special cabinet met November 1, 1894, to consider the matter. The cabinet secretaries, M. Casimir-Perier or M. Dupuy presided. General Mercier handed the cabinet nothing but the bordereau. After the minister of war had related his reasons for his suspicions, the cabinet unanimously authorized the prosecution of Dreyfus.

M. Hanotaux alone made some reservations or diplomatic objections, based on the place where the document was found but it was agreed that in the event of court-martialing Dreyfus measures should be taken to prevent mention of the name of any power. From that day the witness had learned nothing whatever of the case personally, as it was in the hands of the military authorities. M. Guerin, at that time, had never heard of the secret documents and none was ever communicated to the cabinet. He only learned of the existence of the alleged secret documents during the Zola trial and only learned of the alleged confession of Dreyfus to Captain Lebon-Renaud from the newspapers. General Mercier never mentioned the confession to the cabinet.

Colonel Jousset then questioned the witness, saying: "M. Gobert, an expert, has declared you summoned him to your office to give him information about the Dreyfus affair. Do you remember the occasion? Did he not say on an entering card to the clock: 'Monsieur le Ministre de Justice, I fear lest at this hour a grave mistake is being committed.' Is it not a fact that you did not reply, but when M. Gobert was leaving, recommended him to observe extreme caution, as the government was desirous of keeping the treason secret, dressing, particularly indiscreet, when the part of the press, and above all, upon the part

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